

Garden Park Ward Newsletter

February 7, 2021



"Learn of me, and listen to my words; walk in the meekness of my Spirit, and you shall have peace in me." D&C 19:23

Life continues to bring unexpected challenges and joys. Amidst both, I love being grampa and pops as my grandkids call me. Recently, when one of my children fell ill, she asked me to fill in for her at "parents and littles' playgroup", that includes six cousins age five and under. I somewhat hesitantly agreed, in light trepidation of the chaos I expected.

Surprisingly, at the end of our three hours of playing blocks, chase, pillow fights, snacks, kitchen, marble magic, more chase, and more pillow fights, one of my grandchildren exclaimed, "this is the best day ever!"

Her words struck a chord in my soul, and stayed with me long after I dropped her back home. After a tumultuous year, her young wisdom tilted me back to center. Later, as I pondered her expression of pure joy, an address of President Hinkley's words came to me. You may remember a General Conference where he reminded us that he was in his 95th year. He continued—sharing that his life reminded him of words he'd seen on a rusty old sign hanging from a barbed wire fence somewhere in Texas—and they remind me of this year:

*Burned out by drought,
Drowned out by flud waters,
Et out by jackrabbits,
Sold out by sheriff,
Still here!*

In those same remarks, he went on to remind us that "our burden in going forward is tremendous. But our opportunity is glorious." I sometimes, perhaps often, forget, that the greatest opportunity for growth and discovery lies within our greatest challenges.

It is my hope and my blessing, that all of us will have best day ever days, and that the love of family, and the joy of simple things will shore us up as we meet the challenges of our times. That as we open our hearts and souls to Christ's atoning love, we will feel our physical, emotional, intellectual, and spiritual muscles grow as needed to meet our challenges, and the accompanying peace it brings.

Blessings and love,
Bishop Rick Graham and the Garden Park Ward Bishopric

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Sunday Service Announcement—February 7th

The health and safety of our most vulnerable ward members continues to be our top priority. We continue to make periodic adjustments to procedures in response to changing conditions and guidance from church and government leaders. Most recently, we moved to broadcasting church services from the chapel, with the vast majority of ward members participating from home via zoom. The feedback we received has been largely positive, with most participants enjoying the opportunity to worship with all family members in the safety and comfort of their homes.

We have received instruction from stake leadership to provide the option to attend in person for those who wish. In response, those wishing to attend church in the chapel are invited to do so. We will continue to broadcast Sacrament meeting via zoom. Given the very high coronavirus transmission rate, we anticipate that the vast majority of us will elect to continue participating via zoom for now, but anyone wishing to attend in person will be most welcome.

So we can plan accordingly, if you would like to attend Sacrament meeting in the chapel, please let a member of the bishopric know by call or text. Those attending will need to observe infection control measures including social distancing, wearing face masks, using hand hygiene and staying home when ill.

Whether you join by zoom or in person, we look forward to worshipping with you.

Bishop Graham, 801.514.7994
Randy Peterson, 781.720.9108
Chris Furstenau, 801.330.1968
Mark Hindley, 801.599.8175

[Click here to join February 7th Sacrament Meeting](#)

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COVID 19 Vaccine Announcement from Stake Presidency

We want to encourage all of our members and neighbors who qualify to follow the example of the First Presidency and get vaccinated with the COVID 19 vaccines. Currently, this applies to healthcare workers, people over 70 and others who are at greater risk.

Salt Lake County has initiated an effort to provide COVID 19 vaccinations to those over 70 years of age. There is no cost associated with this effort. All available appointments are currently filled, but there is a waiting list. We would encourage all to sign up (see below). The vaccines for those over 70 are being given at the Expo Center at 9575 So State Street in Sandy. (You may wish to offer transportation or sign-up help.)

To get your name on the waiting list for vaccination you have 2 choices:

1. REGISTER BY PHONE: You can get on the list by calling (385) 468-4636. (Be prepared to hold for a few minutes.) You do not have to personally make this call, a family member or friend can help. When an appointment becomes available you will be contacted.
2. REGISTER ON LINE: You can get on the list by clicking on the following link: <http://slco.org/health/COVID-19/vaccine/waitlist/> This will take you to a web site where you simply enter your information. As with telephone registration, a family member or friend can help.

Using either method, you will be asked for your name, email and a phone number. You will be asked if the phone number can accept texts (but this is not a requirement to be on the list).

Hopefully, this will help those struggling to get vaccinated. As more information becomes available, we will try to let you know.

Thanks for all you do to bless the lives of our brothers and sisters.

Salt Lake Bonneville Stake Presidency

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Sunday Service Program—February 7th

GARDEN PARK WARD

-Sacrament Meeting Program-

THE CHURCH OF
JESUS CHRIST
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

February 7, 2021, 10am

Conducting.....Bishop Rick Graham
Organist.....Samuel Johnson
Opening Hymn (organ only)..... Glory to God on High, No. 67
InvocationTBA
Ward Business Bishop Graham

Bearing of Testimonies

Closing Hymn(organ only) Faith of Our Fathers, No. 84
Benediction.....TBA

Zoom broadcast is concluded

Sacrament Hymn Jesus, Once of Humble Birth, No. 196

Administration of the Sacrament

*"When I am outside, I feel that everything testifies of Him—
the trees, the grass, the blue sky, and the beautiful flowers and plants.
I feel a nearness to Him and a greater ability to hear His voice in that stillness.
All of His creations are a beautiful reminder of how much He loves me
and how pleased He is to share His creations with me.
I feel without question that He wants me to be happy."*

*--Joy D. Jones, Primary General President
Consistently Striving to "Hear Him," 02/04/21*

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Relief Society

Thank You!

A huge shout out to Doug and Cindy Bunker for organizing a move for our new neighbor, Pamela Kelly. Watching the Elders move someone is a marvelous sight. Thanks to Judianne for hours of prep and Rick Graham, Ralph Robbins, Samuel Johnson, John Evans, Anne Woolstenhulme, Hunter and Rachel Romano and Tia and Eva Harrison and two super hard working sets of missionaries (as well as anyone else that I didn't recognize with a mask) for the move. "Many hands make light work" is the real deal. I wish we could give every neighbor such a fine welcome or sendoff. Let's make it a 2021 goal!

Community Services

Survivor Wellness (a nonprofit cancer center) is offering free mental health counseling and services to cancer patients and their loved ones, as well as some free support groups this spring.

These services are available to anyone affected by cancer; anyone grieving a loss from cancer, a diagnosis of cancer, struggling during treatment, etc. It's for people to come connect and lean on one another. Also available is individual counseling, free mental health therapy to cancer patients, cancer survivors, their families, loved ones, and caregivers.

For more information, please contact:

Madison Harris
madison@survivorwellness.org
(801) 207-9157

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Elders Quorum

We have lost two quorum members since our last message. Emery Nelson passed away on Thursday, January 28. He was 99 years old, six weeks short of 100, and the most senior member of our elders quorum. Emery was steadfast and faithful in his attendance at our meetings and in his service to our ward. When I last met with Emery at his home, he was mentally sharp, and he matter-of-factly told me he was diagnosed with congestive heart failure and that it would end his life. He then changed the subject and asked me about my plans for retirement. I told him I'd like to camp more, but that my wife wasn't a big fan of camping. He gave me some advice worthy of a man of his age and wisdom. He said, "If you do all the cooking and cleanup during your camping trip, your wife will relax and enjoy her time." I will miss Emery, his wisdom, and his reassuring presence.

Ross Sherman passed away this past Monday. He and his wife, Carolyn, served faithfully at the VA Branch for many years, which is why many of you may not know Ross. It's a shame if you didn't know Ross. He was a man of humble beginnings, without pretense, a wry sense of humor, and a deep insight about people. He could sniff out a phony, and he wasn't comfortable around those who flaunted their knowledge, wealth or position. I believe he was also uncomfortable in the larger setting of the ward and so he preferred the smaller and more intimate atmosphere of the VA Branch. It was there that he blossomed and grew in the gospel and the fellowship of the saints. Ross may not have had a lot of formal education, but he was a learned man. He had a great knowledge of history, which I only became aware of during a conversation after church at the VA. I regret I didn't spend more time getting to know him, because there was a lot to know. I loved his sense of humor. We could kid with each other like school boys and he always made me smile. Ross is survived by his wife, Carolyn, a woman of great faith and perseverance. Please keep Carolyn in your thoughts, prayers and contacts.

My dear brothers. These losses remind me how precious our relationships with our brothers and sisters are, and how little we really know each other. It is a blessing to me to know each of you, but I also wish I knew you all better. It is a blessing for each of us and a blessing to everyone else if we really get to know one another, and if we give others a chance to get to know us. As Alma said at the waters of Mormon, "... and now, as ye are desirous to come into the fold of God, and to be called his people, and are willing to bear one another's burdens, that they may be light; yea and are willing to mourn with those that mourn; yea, and comfort those that stand in need of comfort..." (Mosiah 18: 8-9) When we bear one another's burdens and mourn and comfort one another, we really get to know and to love one another. Please don't let age, position, politics or other factors keep you from the blessing of really knowing each other.

Doug Bunker and the Garden Park Ward Elders Quorum

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Ward Joint Zoom Meeting

This week's Zoom meeting is sponsored by our Sunday School and features Diane Etherington as our presenter.

February 7, 2021 at 11:15 a.m.

[Come Follow Me: Doctrine & Covenants 10-11](#), "That You May Come Off Conqueror"

[Click here to join the February 7th Ward Zoom Meeting](#)

If you're having challenges connecting to Zoom here's a link to a tutorial to help get connected <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362193-Joining-a-meeting>.

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Happy Birthday!

February 2- Paige Jones
February 3-Antonita Castleforte
February 3-Branon Phillips
February 4-Tanner Curtis
February 6-Doug Bunker
February 7-Ray White
February 9-Mary Abildskov
February 10-Tanner Barry
February 10-Anne Marie Olson
February 10-Elsa Paul
February 10-Susan Schooley

February 11-Bryce Orton
February 12-Diane Etherington
February 16-Adam Fifield
February 16-Rosamund Patch
February 18-Joshua Blackwelder
February 18-Clinton Gaudie
February 20-Luca Harrison
February 20-Doran Taylor
February 26-Greg Robison
February 27-Seliano Vaifo'ou
February 29- John Folker

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Ward Announcements

We are saddened to share the news of another great loss in our ward and neighborhood with the passing of **Ross Sherman** on Monday, February 1st. Ross and his wife Carolyn have been stalwart members of the VA Branch where they have served for many years. His friendship and influence there and in our neighborhood will be sorely missed.

We are very sorry to share the sad news of the passing of our dear long-time neighbor, friend and ward member, **Emery Nelson** on Thursday, January 28th. Emery's obituary and link to his funeral services are [posted here](#).

Please avail yourself of the wonderful tributes to both Ross and Emery found on the Elders Quorum page of this week's newsletter.

2021 Youth Music Festival Youth from around the world are invited to watch this virtual global concert on March 17th at 6:00 p.m. MT. Messages, music & performances are focused on the 2021 youth theme, "A Great Work". The pre-recorded concert can be viewed on [Strive to Be YouTube channel](#) or the [Church's Live Broadcasts page](#).

From the GP Ward music committee Please reach out to Roger Thompson at (385) 226-3317 if you or your loved ones would like to share a musical number for Sacrament meeting. Currently we are recording the music beforehand and then playing the recording over zoom.

Seminary Registration Parents of entering 9th grade students and youth—please enroll in seminary when you register for school next year!

Brighton Girls Camp will soon accept applications for counselors, specialists, and other staff members. For additional information, Young Adult age women interested in applying should visit brightongirlscamp.org

Ward Conference Bonneville Stake Presidency has scheduled our annual Ward Conference for Sunday, February 28, 2021. Updates and more details to follow.

2021 Come Follow Me Manuals The distribution of "Come, Follow Me" manuals for 2021 is underway. If you haven't received a manual and would like one please contact Ralph Robbins by text or phone, 801-664-6700.

Sacrament Administration From our Area President, Elder Holzapfel: "The sacrament can be offered to families who have not had the opportunity in their homes . . . The First Presidency has authorized the administration of the sacrament at least monthly." The sacrament may still be blessed and passed by your own family members that are able to do so. If you would like the sacrament brought